

# John Massey Rhind Sculptures

## Providence as Independent Thought



This statue, **Providence as Independent Thought**, is one of two created from limestone by John Massey Rhind in 1908 for the façade of the United States Courthouse in Providence, Rhode Island. It is on the left as you enter the building and is represented by a seated female figure, **Independent Thought**, with **Industry** and **Knowledge** kneeling by her side. **Independent Thought** holds a maple leaf branch in her right hand and an open book in her left. Dressed in work pants and shoes, **Industry**, a kneeling male figure, holds a hammer in his right hand, and his left hand rests on a pulley block. **Knowledge**, a shrouded kneeling female figure, is reading an open book symbolizing wisdom.

## Nation as Sovereign Power

This statue, **Nation as Sovereign Power** is one of two created from limestone by John Massey Rhind in 1908 for the façade of the United States Courthouse in Providence, Rhode Island. It is on the right as you enter the building and is represented by a seated female figure, **Sovereignty** with **Justice** and **Law and Order** kneeling by her side. **Sovereignty** is crowned with an olive branch wreath and holds a bough of laurel in her left hand and a globe with an eagle perched on top in her right hand. **Justice**, a kneeling female figure, holds a balance on her lap and the sword of Justice in her left hand. **Law and Order**, a kneeling male figure, marks a page in a book with his index finger.



*John Massey Rhind (1860 - 1936) was born in Scotland, trained as an artist in Scotland, England, and Paris, and emigrated to New York City in 1889. In 1890 he won a competition for one of three sets of bronze doors for Trinity Church in honor of John Jacob Astor III. He is known for his classically-styled architectural friezes, fountains, and public monuments of soldiers, sailors, Indians, and mythological and historical figures all over the eastern United States.*